

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An acoustically enhanced liner for selectively insulating a portion of a vehicle from ambient sound energy, comprising:

a base portion fabricated of a composite material comprised of a plurality of mineral fibers and a plurality of organic fibers, said base portion ~~[[having-]]~~including:

at least one first lofted region positioned at a first end of said base portion for
[[substantially-]]selectively absorbing a portion of the ambient sound energy, said at least one
first lofted region having a first thickness; [[and]]

at least one second lofted region having a second thickness positioned at an
end of said base portion opposing said first end for selectively absorbing a portion of the
ambient sound energy, said second thickness being less than said first thickness; and

at least one highly compacted region having a third thickness positioned
between said at least one first lofted region and said at least one second lofted region and
forming a central portion of said base portion, said third thickness being less than said first
and second thicknesses.
2. (Currently Amended) The liner according to claim 1, wherein the mineral fibers are glass fibers and the organic fibers are formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyphenylene sulfide~~[[,]]~~ and polyethylene terephthalate.
3. (Original) The liner according to claim 1, wherein the base portion is contoured for use as a headliner in a passenger compartment in a vehicle.

4. (Currently Amended) The liner according to claim 3, wherein the base portion further includes an integral lofted perimeter region ~~that is capable of~~ for absorbing a portion of impact energy created during a collision.
5. (Currently Amended) The liner according to claim 3, further comprising a separate component coupled to at least a portion of a perimeter region of the base portion ~~that is capable of~~ for absorbing a portion of impact energy created during a collision.
6. (Original) The liner according to claim 5, wherein the separate component is attached to the base portion using an adhesive.
7. (Original) The liner according to claim 6, wherein the separate component is fabricated of a composite material comprised of a mixture of mineral fibers and organic fibers.
8. (Currently Amended) The liner according to claim 1, wherein the base portion is contoured for use as a headliner in a passenger compartment in a vehicle and said at least one first lofted region is positioned overlying a driver's seat when installed in the vehicle.
9. (Original) The liner according to claim 1, further comprising a fabric layer secured to said base portion.
10. (Original) The liner according to claim 9, further comprising a foam layer positioned between said base portion and said fabric layer.

11. (Original) The liner according to claim 1, further including at least one angled region, whereby ambient sound energy is reflected from the angled region in a particular direction.

12. (Currently Amended) The liner according to claim 1, wherein said ~~composite material comprises~~ mineral fibers and said organic fibers are entangled as a co-fiberized composite material.

13. (Currently Amended) An acoustically enhanced liner for selectively insulating a portion of a vehicle from ambient sound energy, comprising:

a base portion fabricated of a composite material comprised of a plurality of mineral fibers and a plurality of organic fibers, said base portion having at least one first region comprising mineral and organic fibers, at least a portion of the mineral and organic fibers having a first diameter for absorbing a portion of ambient sound energy and at least one second region comprising mineral and organic fibers, at least a portion of the mineral and organic fibers in the second region having a second diameter which is greater than the first diameter, said at least one second region being positioned adjacent to said at least one first region.

14. (Currently Amended) The liner according to claim 13, wherein the base portion further includes a third region having mineral and organic fibers, at least a portion of the fibers in the third region being of a third diameter which is larger than said second diameter, said third region being positioned along a perimeter portion of said at least one second region.

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27. (Currently Amended) A headliner comprising:

a base portion fabricated of a composite material comprised of a plurality of mineral fibers and a plurality of organic fibers having a first diameter, said base portion including a lofted perimeter region formed of mineral and organic fibers having a second diameter for that is capable of absorbing a portion of impact energy created during a collision, said second diameter being greater than said first diameter.

28. (Currently Amended) The headliner according to claim 27, ~~[[where-]]~~wherein said lofted perimeter region is defined by a separate component coupled to an edge of a main body of the base portion.

29. (Currently Amended) The headliner according to claim ~~[[27]]~~28, wherein the separate component is attached to the base portion main body using an adhesive.

30. (Original) The headliner according to claim 27, wherein the lofted perimeter region is integral with an edge of a main body of the base portion.

31. (New) The liner according to claim 1, wherein said base portion further includes at least one compressed region positioned between said at least one first lofted region and said highly compacted region, said at least one compressed region having a fourth thickness which is greater than said third thickness.

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32. (New) The liner according to claim 4, wherein said mineral and organic fibers forming said at least one first lofted region, said at least one second lofted region, and said at least one highly compacted region have a first diameter and said lofted perimeter region is formed of mineral and organic fibers having a second diameter that is larger than said first diameter.
33. (New) The liner according to claim 8, wherein said at least one second lofted region is positioned overlying a passenger's seat when installed in the vehicle.
34. (New) The liner according to claim 13, wherein said at least one second region at least partially overlies said at least one first region.
35. (New) The liner according to claim 13, further comprising at least one angled region for reflecting the ambient sound energy in a particular direction.
36. (New) The headliner according to claim 27, further comprising at least one angled region for reflecting ambient sound energy in a particular direction.
37. (New) The headliner according to claim 27, wherein the base portion further includes a first lofted region for absorbing a portion of ambient sound energy and at least one compacted region.

38. (New) An acoustically enhanced liner for selectively absorbing and reflecting ambient sound energy comprising:

a base portion fabricated of a composite material including a plurality of mineral fibers and a plurality of organic fibers, said base portion having at least one lofted region for selectively absorbing a portion of the ambient sound energy, at least one compacted region, and at least one angled region positioned at an edge of said base portion for reflecting the ambient sound energy in a particular direction.

39. (New) The liner according to claim 38, wherein the mineral fibers are glass fibers and the organic fibers are formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyphenylene sulfide and polyethylene terephthalate.

40. (New) The liner according to claim 39, wherein said mineral fibers and said organic fibers are entangled as a co-fiberized composite material.

41. (New) The liner according to claim 38, wherein said base portion further includes an integral lofted perimeter region for absorbing a portion of impact energy created during a collision.

42. (New) The liner according to claim 41, wherein at least a portion of said plurality of mineral and organic fibers in said base portion have a first diameter and said integral lofted perimeter region comprises mineral and organic fibers, at least a portion of said mineral and organic fibers in said integral lofted perimeter region having a second diameter which is greater than said first diameter.